



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Ben Brancel, Secretary

DATE: June 23, 2016

TO: Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

FROM: Ben Brancel, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
John Petty, Administrator, Agricultural Resource Management Division

SUBJECT: Report on AEAs recommended for designated in 2016

The Agricultural Enterprise Area evaluation team met on June 1, 2016 to review the three AEA petitions received during this petition cycle. The team recommended the designation of two new AEAs and modification of one AEA (Table 1). Two of the petitions were re-submittals of petitions not recommended for designation in 2015. Additional information about each of these areas is provided in Appendix A.

Table 1: AEAs recommended for designation

AEA name	Approximate number of acres (Total if modified)	Number of petitioners (Total if modified)	AEA Location (County and Town)
Cadott Area Cooperative AEA*	38,542 (40,182)	18 (27)	Chippewa County: Towns of Arthur and Goetz
Evergreen Wolf River AEA	19,886	8	Langlade County: Towns of Evergreen and Wolf River
North-West Pierce County AEA	51,438	51	Pierce County: Towns of Clifton, River Falls, and Martell

**Modification*

Summary of AEAs statewide

Designation of the recommended AEAs is completed by departmental order, with notification of the order posted in the state newspaper. Following notification, the designation takes effect on January 1, 2017. After designation of the three petitions there will be 33 AEAs in the state totaling just over 1,100,000 acres. The AEAs are located in portions of 24 counties, 98 towns and the Bad River Reservation (See Appendix B). Nearly 1,500 landowners have signed the petitions requesting designation as an AEA. Hundreds of letters of support from other landowners, neighboring cities and villages, business owners and other interested parties have also been received

Farmland preservation agreements in AEAs

The department continues to work with the AEAs to encourage landowners to apply for farmland preservation agreements. To date, the department has enrolled 562 farmland preservation agreements covering 123,300 acres.

Attachment A: Summary of the 2016 AEAs recommended for designation

Attachment B: Map of designated and recommended AEAs

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Appendix A: Summary of the 2016 AEAs recommended for designation

Cadott Area AEA (2016)

Overview

- Chippewa County: Towns of Arthur and Goetz
- 38,542 acres
- 18 petitioners
- Dairy, cash grain, maple syrup

Goals

- Preserve and build upon the existing agri-business relationships that currently exist between the farm producers, the area agricultural processors, and the local businesses that service the agricultural infrastructure.
- Use the AEA as a way to pursue new business ventures that will build the economy and advance State and local development goals.
- Refine existing cash grain production practices and establish new business relationships among cooperating participants to establish and maintain a market supply of specialty (non-GMO) food grade soybeans, to meet the production demand of a newly established soybean processing facility.
- Evaluate interest and design an initiative to support local “home grown” food production to meet local institution (school, prison) and community needs (Farmers Market).
- Evaluate interest and design an initiative to support onfarm energy conservation and distributed renewable energy production using small-scale wind and solar technology.

Items of Note

- Eight of the nine original petitioners have signed a farmland preservation agreement
- Petitioning farmers are evaluating options to contract food grade soybeans for international export
- Established field trials within the AEA to document and evaluate the use of sorghum as biofuel stock
- Many farms are third generation, independently owned, family farm operations
- Petitioning farms cooperate to exchange equipment and/or labor, and have historically pursued opportunities for joint purchasing and marketing
- Milk, corn and syrup produced within AEA are used to supply regional agri-processors

North-West Pierce County AEA (2016)

Overview

- Pierce County: Towns of Clifton, River Falls, and Martell
- 51,438 acres
- 51 petitioners
- Dairy and cash grain

Goals

- Identify and preserve areas suitable for agriculture
- Maintain the productivity of the county's agricultural areas for current and future generations
- Promote agriculture and agricultural enterprises to ensure that farming remains economically viable
- Identify and promote nearby agriculture-related businesses to ensure continues access to necessary suppliers and consumers to remain economically viable

Items of Note

- Strong agricultural infrastructure supports farmers in the area, including Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, grain terminals on the Mississippi River, and a variety of seed, fertilizer and equipment suppliers
- Development pressure extends from the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
- South Kinni Farmer-Led Watershed Council focuses efforts within the AEA boundary
- Located in an area awarded a Mississippi River Basin Initiative grant to support cropland management practices

Appendix B Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs)

